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Number 104
March 1974

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Our cover previews the forthcoming Enemy Ace-Balloon Buster team-up to be illustrated by Frank Thorne.
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The COMIC READER

March 1974

Volume 1, Number 104

Jerome Sinkovec
Editor & Publisher

David Finger
New York Reporter

Michael Tiefenbacher
Editor

Liam O'Connor
Fanzine Reviews

Jerry Bails
Founder

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THE COMIC READER is published monthly by Street Enterprises, P.O. Box 255, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051. Phone: (414) 251-6933. Printed by Falls Publishing Co.
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National News

Archie Goodwin is resigning his editorial post at National to return to Warren. His last books at National will be DETECTIVE COMICS #443, OUR FIGHTING FORCES #150, G. I. COMBAT #173, and STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES #173.

DETECTIVE #441 has a Howie Chaykin BATMAN story, issue #442 will have (if things go well) an Alex Toth BATMAN story, and #443 will feature a twenty page BATMAN/MANHUNTER team-up written by Archie and drawn by Walt Simonson. This will conclude the MANHUNTER series. Julius Schwartz will take over DETECTIVE.

At the present time, it is unknown who will take over OUR FIGHTING FORCES, STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES and G.I. COMBAT. Murray Boltinoff and Jack Kirby have been mentioned as possible successors.

The two new Kirby books are: OMAC, The One Man Army (the C stands for Corps). OMAC is a super-powered crime-fighter situated in the future (a future different from KAMANDI's) who's empowered and directed by a computerised satellite called "Brother Eye." The second book reunites Jack with the format he seems to be most comfortable with, kid groups. The title of the book is THE DINGBATS, and seems to be close to the NEWSBOY LEGION in style.

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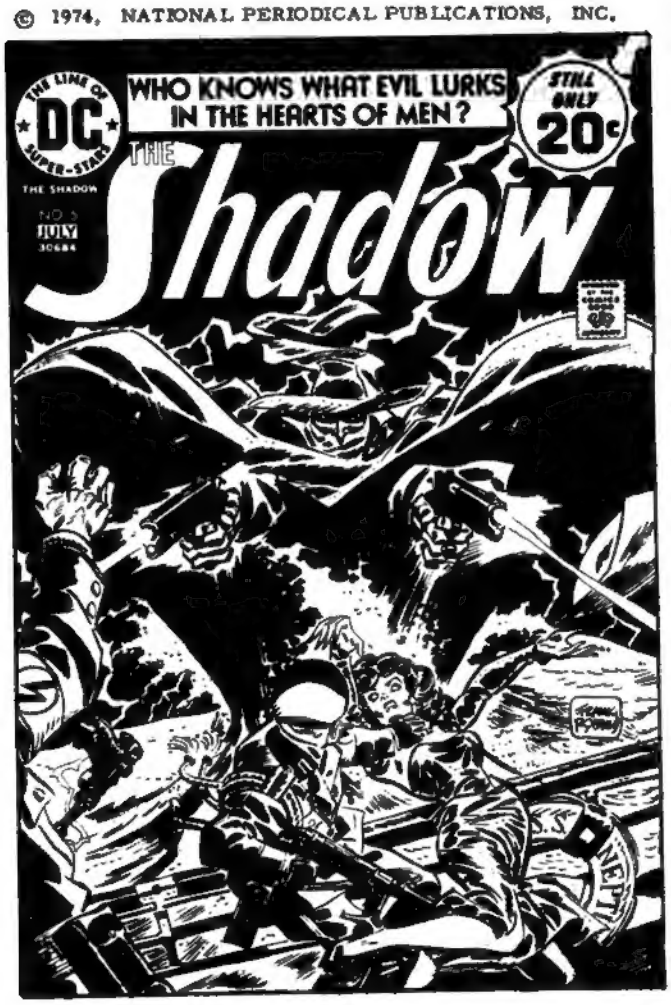


This month's issue of DETECTIVE will include a reprint of IBIS THE INVINCIBLE, a character who originally appeared in Fawcett's WHIZ COMICS. This is the first non-Marvel Family Fawcett reprint and it opens the way for reprints of SPY SMASHER, BULLET MAN, MINUTE MAN, etc.

One of the greater comic book writers, Bill Finger, died. Bill Finger helped shape the legends of many of National's Golden Age heroes, including Batman, Wildcat and the original Green Lantern. National has a few of his recent scripts which they do plan to use.

In an effort to make the 100 Page books distinguishable from each other, the books will tend to follow a special theme for their reprint sections. Upcoming BATMAN giants will feature a "Numbers" issue, and a "Comedy-Tragedy" issue, while SHAZAM! will have issues devoted to "Friends of the Marvel Family" and "Books." The theme of the next WONDER WOMAN 100 pager will be "Crisis."

The 60¢ 100 Page titles are now being mailed flat, in protective wrappers, to subscribers.

The upcoming TARZAN $1 book will feature Joe Kubert's five part adaptation of the Burroughs novel, "The Return of Tarzan," a two page pin-up of Tarzan and Jane by Kubert, a two page "How To Draw Tarzan's Animals" also by Joe, and an article on the inside back cover about Philip Jose Farmer's book "Tarzan Alive."

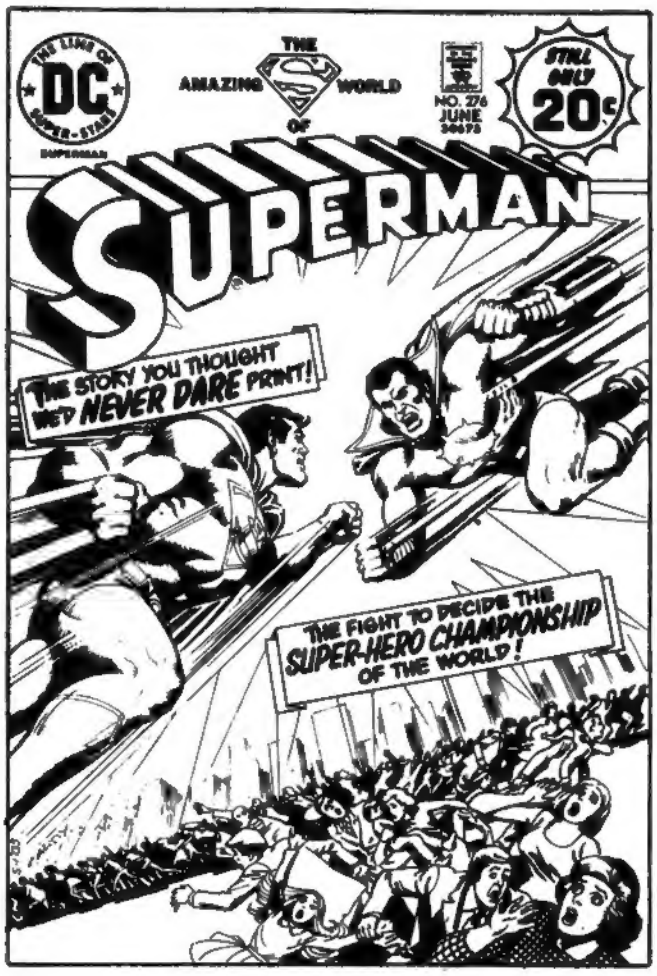
You can't keep a good badman down. Batman will be meeting Two-Face in a future story and Terra-Man will soon return to plague Superman.

Starting in issue #435, Aquaman will be appearing in the back of ADVENTURE COMICS, an effort to get him in the spotlight again to tie in with his featured roll on TV's SUPER-FRIENDS (He has already returned to the JLA, where scripter Len Wein has bolstered his strength -- a longtime suggestion by TCR's editors.)

As you may have noticed by this time, the May issue of KAMANDI was inked entirely by D. Bruce Berry. Mike Royer has stopped inking Jack Kirby's work to assist Russ Manning on the Sunday TARZAN strip and to free-lance on his own.

C. C. Beck is working on a full-length novel for SHAZAM! which he will write and illustrate.

To those of you who have wondered what it means when Russell Carley is credited for "Script continuity," it means that he goes over the script with the writer to help the writer with the panel breakdowns.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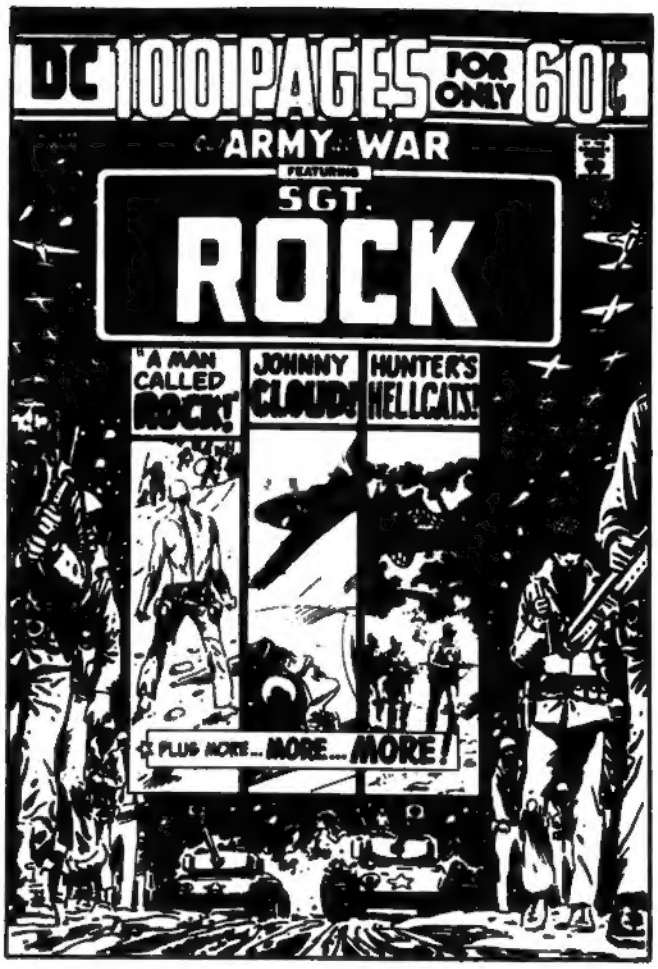
An unused Adventurer's Club story is being redone and will become a full length story called "The Forgotten Warriors." It will appear in WEIRD WAR TALES.

An upcoming Shadow story will be concerned with the martial arts.

Bill Draut has done a fill-in PHANTOM STRANGER story and there is an upcoming twenty page story with a guest appearance by Deadman.



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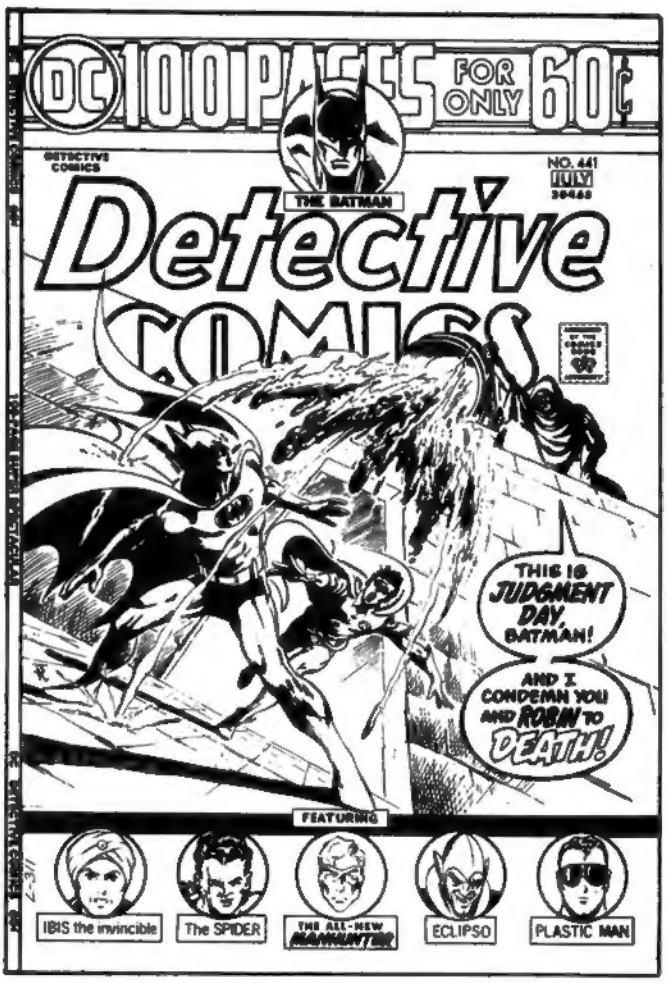

Marvel News

Marvel is continuing to expand its line. Plans call for books of varied sizes and prices: 25¢, 35¢, 60¢ and 75¢, and some higher priced projects are in the works.

Two new black & white books are HAUNT OF HORROR and MONSTERS OF THE MOVIES. Jim Harmon is the editor of MONSTERS OF THE MOVIES and it will concern itself, mainly, with monsters of film and television fame. The first issue will be devoted to the most famous of the movie monsters, KING KONG. SATANA will be the lead feature of HAUNT OF HORROR, which will also, starting with the second issue, feature a new character called GABRIEL, DEVIL HUNTER, Gabriel will be based on the concepts of exorcism and exorcism will be the theme of the second issue.

Marvel will continue the policy of having at least one continuing character in each of the black and white books. LILITH and BLADE are new series that will be featured in VAMPIRE TALES. (LILITH debuts in GIANT-SIZE CHILLERS #1, which features DRACULA.)

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The first of Marvel's 100 page, 60¢ books will be a SUPER-GIANT SPIDER-MAN. The feature story will be a Spider-Man/Dracula team-up by Len Wein and Ross Andru. Each 60¢ book will have 25 to 30 pages of new material. Upcoming 100 page books are a SUPER-GIANT AVENGERS and a SUPER-GIANT CONAN.

Due to poor sales reports, Marvel is dropping from the schedule KULL THE DESTROYER, THE SUB-MARINER and WORLDS UNKNOWN. Kull will be appearing in SAVAGE TALES in the future, Namor will be running to issue #72, and WU will run the two part Sinbad adaptation before being discontinued. The announced adaptation of "The Day of the Triffads" will probably appear in one of the other books, since it was completed. IT, The Living Colossus is being dropped from ASTONISHING TALES and will be replaced by the new feature Deathlok, which was originally scheduled for WORLDS UNKNOWN. Another new strip, The Golem, has replaced Man Wolf in STRANGE TALES, while Man Wolf has replaced The Living Mummy in CREATURES ON THE LOOSE and The Living Mummy will end up in SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS, which had been scheduled to be revived with a series called the Victims of Dracula. That series apparently will not appear, though we're so confused by this paragraph that it could pop up anywhere!

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Two new books will be reprint (for the present): THE HUMAN TORCH and THE NIGHT RIDER. The latter title reprints the western GHOST RIDER stories, retitled for obvious reasons. (Just when TORCH gets his own comic -- resurrecting Marvel's big three of the forties of TORCH, CAPTAIN AMERICA and SUB-MARINER -- wouldn't you know? Subby is cancelled.)

Another 100 page, 60¢ book that is planned but not yet on the schedule is tentatively known as SUPER-GIANT LEAGUE OF SUPER-VILLAINS (very slim chance of it still being called that mouthful when and if it comes out!) which would feature major villains such as Doctor Doom and Sub-Mariner in new stories.

TONY ISABELLA NEWS DEPT. (Or "Who Says We Play Favorites?"):

WAR IS HELL is to be revived, and following one or two issues of SGT. FURY reprints, a new series will debut. It has yet to be formulated by writer Tony Isabella, however.

Tony Isabella will also be taking over POWERMAN starting with issue #20 and will be writing the new Living Mummy series. He has also returned to full time staff work with the Marvel Bullpen and you can look forward to quite a bit of scripting from Tony.

Tony Isabella has taken over FOOM magazine and has announced he needs articles, artwork, and humor articles on the Marvel characters. Contact Tony at 5455 Kings Highway, Apartment 4A, Brooklyn, New York, 11203. Enclose a SSAE if you want your material returned.

Rich Buckler has pencilled the 40th issue of CONAN THE BARBARIAN. It was inked by Ernie Chua.

Frank Brunner is doing a CONAN story for the black and whites. Frank also did the cover of KA-ZAR #4.

Steve Englehart has given up the scripting of SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU. Future scripting will be by Gerry Conway. Steve's last story on Shang-Chi will appear in DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU #2 or 3, and was pencilled by Alan Weiss and inked by Al Milgrom.

Doug Moench is now working full time for Marvel as an assistant editor. He will also be writing BROTHER VOODOO, FRANKENSTEIN, WEREWOLF BY NIGHT, and other strips. Doug will also be writing the new character "Deathlok" which Rich Buckler will be illustrating.

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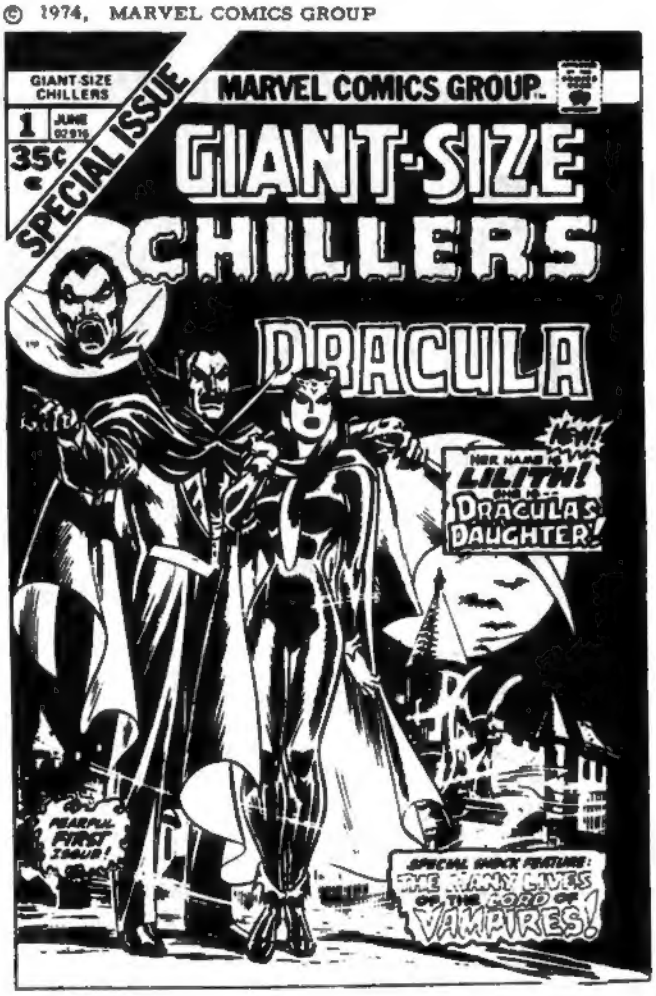
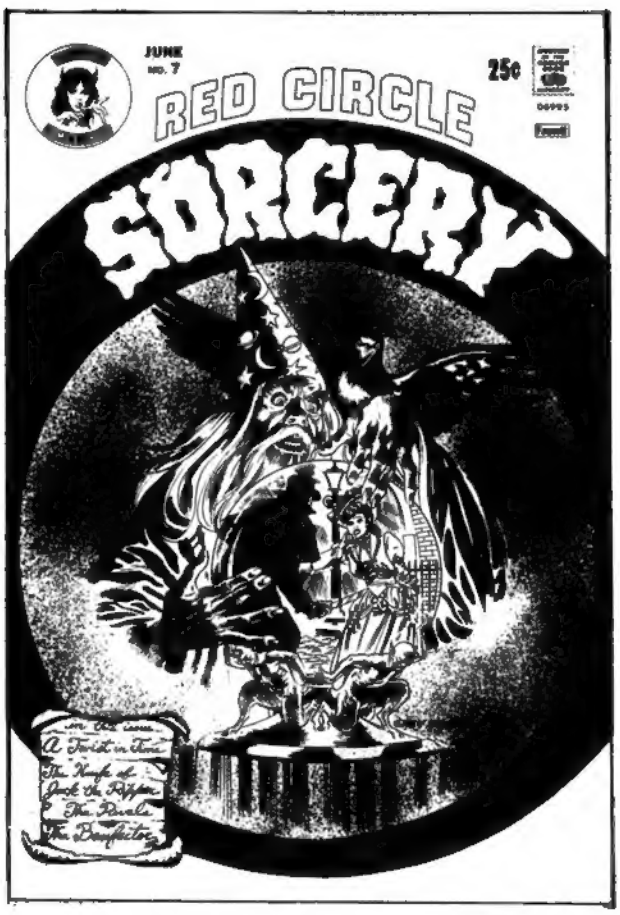


Red Circle News

Red Circle continues to put new material into their plans for the future. The detective book announced previously is moving along but no title has been chosen yet. Arrangements are being made for Red Circle to put out a new book about Dave Greenberg and Bob Hantz, the "Super-Cops" (in cunjunction with the movie of the same name). Finally, there is talk about a sister book to SORCERY.

COMING COMIC:

SORCERY (7, June). This issue features Merlin the Magician in a guest appearance in "A Twist In Time" by Steve Skeates and Carlos Pino, "The Knife Of Jack the Ripper" by Marv Channing and Vincente Alcazar, the return of the Roaring Twenties in "The Rivals" by Marv Channing and Bruce Jones and "The Benefactor," a haunting tale by T. Casey Brennan and V. Hack. Other features are "The Man Who Would Not Laugh," a text story by Channing illustrated by Gray Morrow, an article on editor Gray by editor Gray, and a pair of essays about the supernatural. Cover by Gray Morrow. (4/9)



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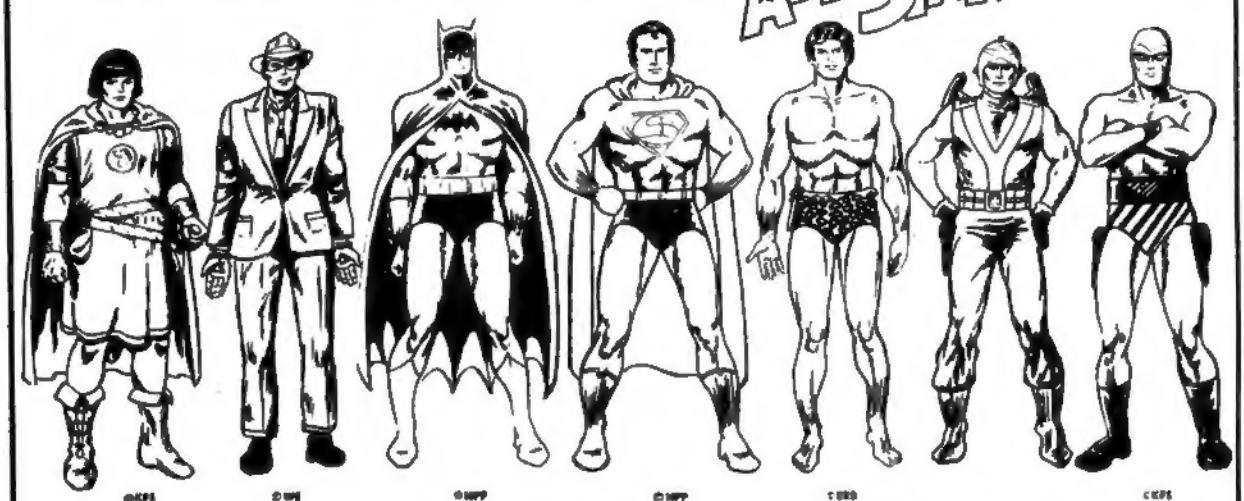
THE WORLD'S GREATEST WEEKLY ALL-STAR LINE-UP!



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COMING COMICS is a listing of upcoming releases from the major comic art publishers. The "on sale" dates are from the publishers' production schedules and serve as approximate indications of the date your local distributor may feel like putting the material on display. The following is the format of each listing:

TITLE (Number, cover date). Description of all known contents, credits for the feature/s in this order: writer, artist, inker. (On sale date)

National Coming Comics

GHOSTS (27, June). Featured in this issue are: "Conversation with a Corpse" by Bob Brown and Frank McLaughlin, "The Haunted Hotel" by Ernie Chua, Welcome to Your Tomb" by John Calnan and "House of 1, 000 Ghosts" by Gerry Taloac. All stories are written by Leo Dorfman and the cover is by Nick Cardy. (3/5)

OUR ARMY AT WAR Super-Spectacular (269, June). New material this issue is Sgt. Rock in "A Man Called Rock" by Robert Kanigher and George Evans and "Horseless," a Gallery of War story by Kanigher and Ric Estrada. Reprints include Sgt. Rock in "Stop the War, I Want to Get Off!" by Kanigher and Joe Kubert, Hunter's Hellcats in "No Loot For the Hellcats" by Kanigher and Russ Heath, Johnny Cloud in "Ghost Ship of Three Wars" by Kanigher and Irv Novick, "The Mighty Mosquito" by Bob Haney and Kubert, "Foxhole Fever" by Haney and John Severin and "The Sergeant and the Gun" by Kanigher and Mort Drucker. Cover by Joe Kubert. (3/5)

YOUNG LOVE Super-Spectacular (110, June-July). New and reprinted material. (3/5)

LIMITED COLLECTOR'S EDITION (C-27) This SHAZAM! issue features the return of the Marvel Family to the $1 format in: "Sivana's Voodoo Curse" by Pete Costanza, "The Mistake of Father Time" and "Uncle Marvel's Rival" featuring Captain Marvel. "The Man With 100 Heads" features Captain Marvel Junior and "The Black Magician" features Mary Marvel. "Mr. Tawney's Diet Dangers" focuses on the Marvel's feline friend and the Marvel Family faces "The Fantastic Freezing Furies" by Kurt Schaffenberger and "The Trio of Terror" by C.C. Beck. Special features include a photo feature on the Captain Marvel movie serial. Cover is by Bob Oksner. (3/7) $1

FAMOUS FIRST EDITION LIMITED COLLECTORS' SILVER MINT SERIES (C-28) A full color, complete, reprint of the classic that introduced Batman in 1939 -- DETECTIVE COMICS number 27! (3/7) $1

WONDER WOMAN (212, June-July). Julius Schwartz takes over as editor with this issue as the Amazon Princess goes through a series of self-imposed trials to prove to herself that she is worthy of re-joining the Justice League of America. Superman narrates her battle with the Cavalier in "The Man Who Mastered Men" which is also brought to you by Len Wein, Curt Swan and Tex Blaisdell. (3/7)

THE PHANTOM STRANGER (31, June-July). "Sacred Is The Monster Kang" is this issue's Phantom Stranger story by Arnold Drake and Gerry Talaoc. The BLACK ORCHID is the new back-up feature starting with this issue's "The Island of Fear" by Sheldon Mayer and Tony DeZuniga. Cover is by Luis Dominguez. (3/12)

KAMANDI, THE LAST BOY ON EARTH (18, June). "The Eater" is a giant worm that the gopher people have kept under wraps with a vibrating ray. But the ray malfunctions and the worm gets loose,

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EXTRA! EYEWITNESS REPORT:
THE GIRL THE EARTH ATE UP

eating everything in its path. Story by Jack Kirby and D. Bruce Berry. (3/12)

HOUSE OF MYSTERY Super-Spectacular (225, June-July). Introductory page by Berni Wrightson. New stories are: "The Man Who Died Twice" by Jack Oleck and Fred Alcala, "Fireman, Burn My Child" by Mike Fleisher, Russell Carley and Frank Thorne, "See No Evil" by Jack Oleck and Alex Nino, and "This One Will Scare You To Death" by Kazakov, Kashdan and E. R. Cruz. Reprints are: "The Curse of the MacIntyres" by Don Heck from DARK MANSION #1, The Spectre in "Shadow Show" by Mark Hanerfeld and Jack Sparling, "Master of the Unknown" by Jack Kirby, three Sergio Aragones pages, and a Phantom Stranger story entitled "Hairy Shadows." Cover by Luis Domingues. (3/12)

THE SHADOW (5, June-July). When two ships are hijacked, one carries a foreign ambassador marked for death, the other carries the vacationing Margo Lane. Behind it all is a group that intends to keep the U. S. out of World War II through a show of force. They have to face the Shadow on "The Night of Neptune's Death" which is written by Denny O'Neill and drawn by Frank Robbins. (3/14)

RIMA, THE JUNGLE GIRL (2, June-July). We learn more of Rima in "Flight from Eden," which is written by Joe Kubert and drawn by Nestor Redondo. Also presented is another chapter of the Space Voyagers entitled "The Delta Brain" by Robert Kanigher and Alex Nino. (3/14)

BLACK MAGIC (4, June-July). "The Last Second of Life" by Simon and Kirby, "Contact" by Bill Draut and "The Girl the Earth Ate Up" are this issue's reprints from the 50's S&K title. (3/14)

●

SUPERMAN (276, June). When a boy who wanders into a cave meets an old indian chief and is the recipient of a magic word -- BOOM -- "Make Way For Captain Thunder." Superman's fight with the boy turned man who has become evil is created by Elliot S! Maggin, Curt Swan and Bob Oksner. (3/19)

THE WITCHING HOUR (43, June). E. R. Cruz does the introduction to "The Gun That Wouldn't Stop Killing" by Carl Wessler and Ruben Yandoc, "Village of the Vile" by George Kashdan and Fred Alcala and "When Time Went Mad" by George Kashdan and Jerry Grandanetti. Cover by Nick Cardy. (3/19)

THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD Super-Spectacular (113, June-July). A revenge crazed criminal hijacks the Wayne Foundation Building in "The 50 Story Killer." Batman teams up with the Metal Man in this story by Bob Haney and Jim Aparo. Biographies of the artist and writer and resumés on Batman's past co-stars complete the new material this issue, while reprints consist of: Green Arrow in "The Most Dangerous Arrows in the World" by George Papp, Hawkman in "The Creature of 1,000 Shapes" by Gardner Fox and Joe Kubert, the Viking Prince in "The Figurehead of the Burning Sea" by Robert Kanigher and Joe Kubert, the Challengers in their first bout with Multi-Man - "The Man Who Conquered the Challengers" by France Herron and Bob Brown. The cover is by Jim Aparo. (3/19)

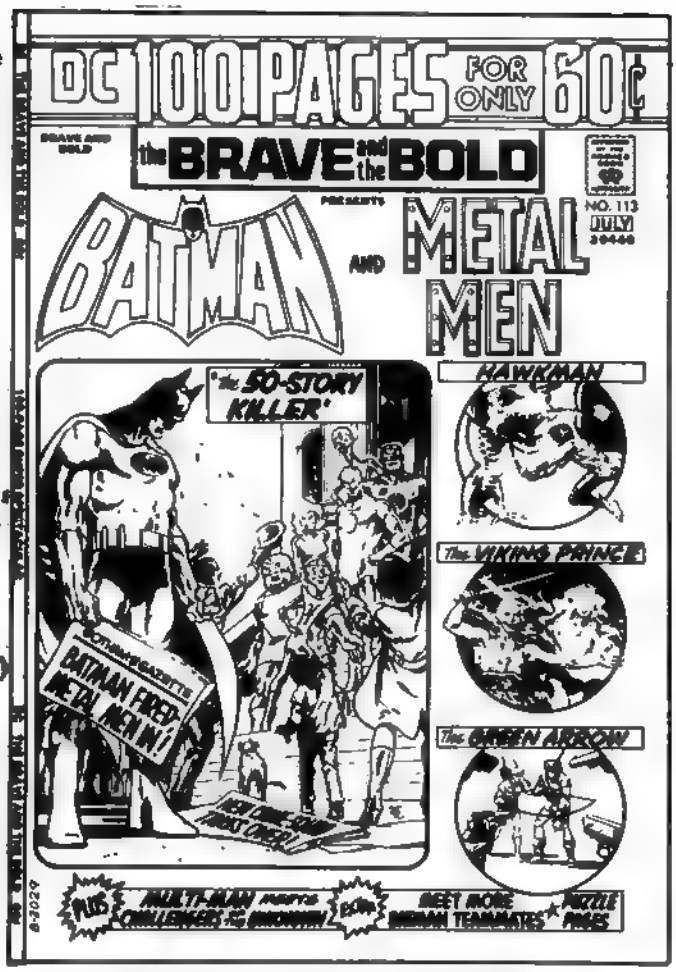
OUR FIGHTING FORCES (149, June-July) The Losers have to face a "Bullet For a Traitor" in a story by Robert Kanigher and John Severin. Wrapping up the issue is a tale of a World War I zeppelin called "Trial by Combat" written and drawn by George Evans. Cover is by Frank Thorne. (3/21)

SECRETS OF SINISTER HOUSE (18, June-July). In this last issue, new material is "Strange Shop on Demon Street" by George Kashdan and John Calnan and "The House That Death Built." Reprints are "Mad to Order" by Murphy Anderson and "The Baby Who Had One Year to Die." Cover by Nick Cardy. (3/21)

HOUSE OF SECRETS (120, June). In this issue: "The Lion's Share" by Steve Skeates and Fred Alcala, "A Time To Die" by Virgil North and Tony DeZuniga, and what has been called this year's classic story -- "The Right Demon Could Do It" by Sheldon Mayer, Paul Kirchner and Tex Blaisdell. Cover by Luis Dominguez. (3/21)

●

THE SUPERMAN FAMILY Super Spectacular (165, June-July). A new job, locale and story approach grace this issue's new SUPERGIRL material, edited by Julie Schwartz. Lead story is "The Priestess of the Golden Sun" by Elliot Maggin, Art Saaf and Vince Colletta. Jimmy Olsen, Lois Lane and the rest of the Superman Family appear in "Jimmy Olsen in Scotland Yard," "The Man Who Betrayed Superman's Identity," "Lois Lane's Jungle Jeopardy," "Superbaby's First Foster Parents," "Clark Kent -- Gangster," and "Krypto's Three Amazing Transformations." (3/26)



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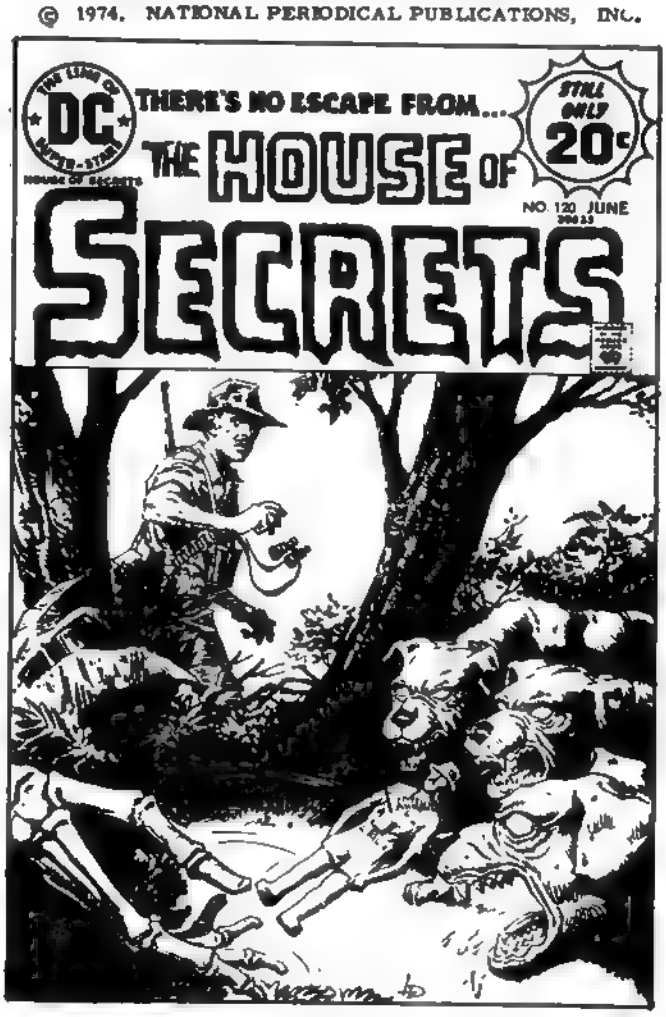

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WEIRD MYSTERY TALES (12, June-July). Stories featured are: "To Sleep, Perchance To Die" by Jack Oleck and Ocampo, "Time Plug" by Steve Skeates and Tony DeZuniga and "Til Death Do Us Part" by E. Nelson Bridwell and Luis Dominguez. Cover by Domingues. (3/26)

WEIRD WAR TALES (26, June). This issue: "Jump Into Hell" by Jack Oleck and Fred Alcala, "The Survivor" by John Albano and Fred Alcala, and "A Time To Die" by Jack Oleck And Ernie Chua. Cover by Luis Domingues. (3/26)

TARZAN Super-Spectacular (231, June-July). The first part of "Tarzan and the Lion Man" written and drawn by Joe Kubert and Korak in "The Ancient Awakes" by Robert Kanigher and Alex Nino are the new stories this issue. Reprints are: Tarzan in "The Deadly Dangers of Pal-Ul-Don," Congo Bill in "Safaris For Sale" by Jon Smalle, Simba, Jungle Boy in "My Enemy, The Jungle" by George Kashdan and Jack Sparling, and "The Return of Detective Chimp" by John Broome, Carmine Infantino and Frank Giacoia. Cover by Joe Kubert. (3/28)

DETECTIVE COMICS Super-Spectacular (441, June-July). A judge blames his daughter's blindness on the Caped Crusader and plans to take revenge on Batman and Robin on his self-appointed "Judgement Day." Story by Archie Goodwin and Jim Aparo. Archie Goodwin and Walt Simonson present another chapter of the Manhunter in "Cathedral Perilous." Reprints in this issue are: Batman in "The Case of the Prophetic Returns" and "The Carbon Copy Crimes," Eclipso in "The Two Faces of Doom," Ibis, The Invincible in "Holocaust, God of Destruction" by Kurt Schaffenberger, and untitled stories of Plastic Man and Alias the Spider. Cover by Jim Aparo. (3/28)

ACTION COMICS (436, June). A follow-up to the "Attack By the Army of Tomorrow" story (which appeared in SUPERMAN #265) is presented in "The Super-Cigars of Perry White" by Elliot Maggin, Curt Swan and Vince Colletta. Green Arrow appears in "Young Man With A Horn," which also features Oliver Queen's ward, Roy. Story by Elliot Maggin, Dick Dillin and Frank McLaughlin. Cover by Nick Cardy. (3/28)

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Marvel Coming Comics

DAREDEVIL (110, June). "Birthright" tells the origin of Mandir and Necra. Story by Steve Gerber, Gene Colan and Frank Chiarmonte. (3/5)

THE INCREDIBLE HULK (176, June). The Hulk returns to Counterearth and encounters the Warlock in "Crisis on Counterearth" by Gerry Conway, Herb Trimpe and Jack Abel. (3/5)

KID COLT, OUTLAW (183, June). Reprints this issue are: Kid Colt in "The Guns of Wes Hardin" by Larry Lieber and Jack Keller from KID COLT, OUTLAW #126 and "Shootout" by Stan Lee from GUNSMOKE WESTERN #58. (3/5)

TOMB OF DRACULA (21, June). "Deathknell" concludes the Dr. Sun story, by Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan and Tom Palmer. (3/5)

IRON MAN (68, June). Iron Man visits Viet Nam where he battles an old foe of The X-Men -- Sunfire. "Night of the Rising Sun" is by Mike Friedrich, George Tuska and Mike Esposito. (3/5)

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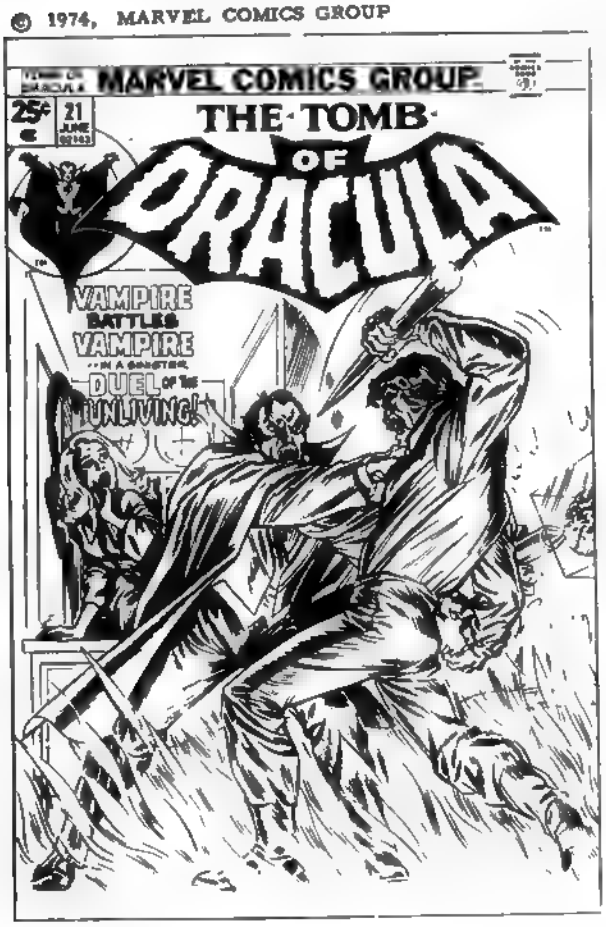

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THE OUTLAW KID (22, June). These are three stories and filler originally presented in OUTLAW KID #6. Art by Doug Wildey. (3/5)

MARVEL TALES (51, June). Spider-Man becomes embroiled in a "Crisis on the Campus" in a story by Stan Lee, Johnny Romita and Jim Mooney. Reprinted from Spidey #68. (3/5)

WEIRD WONDER TALES (4, June). "The Secret of the Black Planet" by Lee & Ditko from TALES OF SUSPENSE #28, "We Found the Ninth Wonder of the World" by Lee & Kirby and "The Mystery Planet" both from TALES TO ASTONISH #1, and "Beyond Belief" by Harry Lazarus from UNCANNY TALES #44 are this issue's contents. (3/5)

WAR IS HELL (7, June). Sgt. Fury appears in "While the Jungle Sleeps" from issue #17 of his magazine by Lee, Ayers and Colletta. (3/5)

MONSTERS ON THE PROWL (28, June). This monster book is revived with "The Escape of Monsteroso" by Lee, Kirby and Ayers from AMAZING ADVENTURES #5 and "They're Driving Me Crazy by Dick Ayers from ADVENTURES INTO TERROR #14. (3/5)

WORLDS UNKNOWN (7, June). This issue features the first part of the

adaption of the Ray Harryhausen film: "The Golden Voyage of Sinbad" by Len Wein, George Tuska and Vince Colletta. Cover by Tuska. (3/5)

CONAN THE BARBARIAN KING SIZE QUARTERLY (2, June). We believe this is a 48 page "giant" reprinting Conan material similar to last year's Conan annual. (3/5)

DRACULA LIVES (6, June). The Prince of Darkness invades the Vatican in what is considered around the offices as "the best drawn black and white Marvel ever produced," featuring: "Death in the Chapel" by Steve Gerber, Gene Colan and Ernie Chua, "Shadow over Versailles," a text story, and the second chapter of Bram Stoker's original novel as adapted by Roy Thomas and Dick Giordano. (3/5)

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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (133, June). "The Molten Man Breaks Out" continues last issue's story of Spidey's battle with the Molten Man. Story by Gerry Conway, Ross Andru and Frank Giacoia. (3/12)

TWO-GUN KID (118, June). (3/12)

CAPTAIN AMERICA (174, June). "It's Always Darkest..." continues Captain America's battle against the group that is trying to discredit him. Story by Steve Englehart and Sal Buscema. (3/12)

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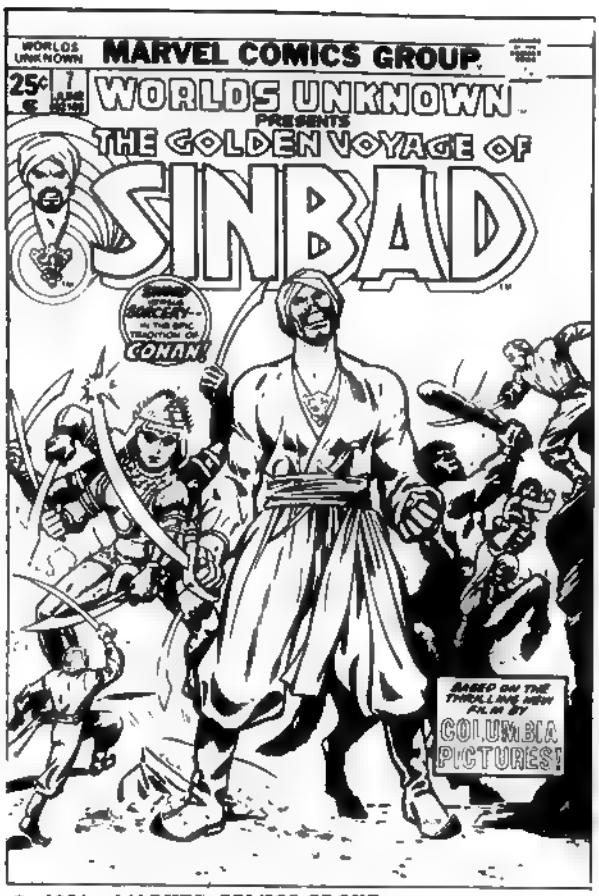

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VAULT OF EVIL (11, June). (3/12)

THOR (224, June). "No One Can Stop The Destroyer" has Thor returning to Earth and resuming his Don Blake identity. Hercules also visits Earth and meets the Destroyer. Story by Gerry Conway, John Buscema and Mike Esposito. (3/12)

THE X-MEN (88, June). "The Mark of the Monster" by Roy Thomas, Don Heck and George Tuska is reprinted from X-MEN #40. (3/12)

DEAD OF NIGHT (4, June). (3/12)

DOCTOR STRANGE (1, June). The Master of the Mystic Arts debuts in his own comic once more with this issue's tale of Doctor Strange's entrance into the orb, where he meets his own vision of death! "Through An Orb, Darkly" is the first of four parts, and is by Steve Englehart, Frank Brunner and Dick Giordano. Cover By Brunner. (3/12)

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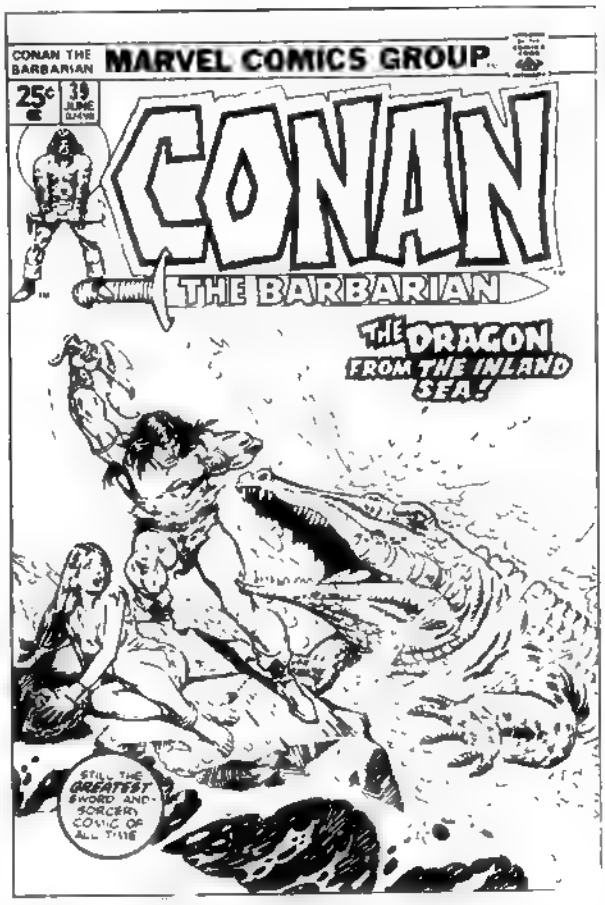
THE AVENGERS (124, June). An unusual large creature threatens the existance of the universe in "Beware the Star-Stalker" by Steve Englehart, Sal Buscema and Dave Cockrum. (3/19)

CRAZY (4, June). This issue features "Shafted" by Len Wein and Mike Ploog,



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"Sports Movies Then And Now" by Stu Schwartzburg, Marv Wolfman, Marie Severin and Herb Trimpe, "Politickles" by Tony Isabella and Dick Wright, "Just Plain Folks" by Steve Gerber and R. Graysmith, "Cockeyed Canvas" by Kelly Freas and more of "Mooses through History" by Bob Foster. Cover is again by Kelly Freas. (3/19)

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (39, June). "The Dragon from the Inland Sea" features Conan battling a giant beast summoned by a wizard who makes sacrifices to it. Story by Roy Thomas and John Buscema. (3/19)

POWERMAN (19, June). "Call Him Cottonmouth" -- and he's the leader of the drug ring that helped frame Luke Cage! Cage joins the gang to get proof of his innocence.and is assigned the task of hijacking drugs from a rival gang. Story is by Len Wein, George Tuska and Vince Colletta. (3/19)

MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE (4, June). Iron Man battles the Mandarin in "Death Duel for the Life of Happy Hogan" by Stan Lee, Gene Colan and Frank Giacoia. Captain America appears in "The Secret" by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Frank Giacoia. Both stories are reprinted from TALES OF SUSPENSE #86. (3/19)

THE HAUNT OF HORROR (1, May). A new black and white addition to the line begins this month with "The Rats" by Gerry Conway and Ralph Reese, "The Shadows of the City" by Steve Gerber and Vicente Alcazar, "His Own Kind" by Roy Thomas and Val Mayerick, plus text features and reprints. (3/19)

MAN-THING (6, June). "And When I Die..." is "one of the most beautiful stories ever!" Continued from issue #5, this concludes the story about the little clown who commited suicide and tells how his life and his worth are to be judged by his critics. The tale is told by Steve Gerber, Mike Ploog and Frank Chiarmonte. (3/19)

THE GHOST RIDER (6, July). The astrological underground returns in "Zodiac II" as he terrorizes San Francisco with special attention to Cornelius Van Lunt. Story is by Tony Isabella, Jim Mooney and Sal Trapani. (3/19)

ASTONISHING TALES (24, June). "Five Claws of Death" features a major brawl between IT, the Living Colossus and Fin Fang Foom, who has fallen under the control of Dr. Vault. Written by Tony Isabella, pencilled by Dick Ayers and Larry Lieber and inked by Sal Trapani.. (3/19)

FEAR (22, June). Morbius battles back in "This Vampire Must Die" by Steve Gerber, Rich Buckler and Luis Dominguez. (3/19)

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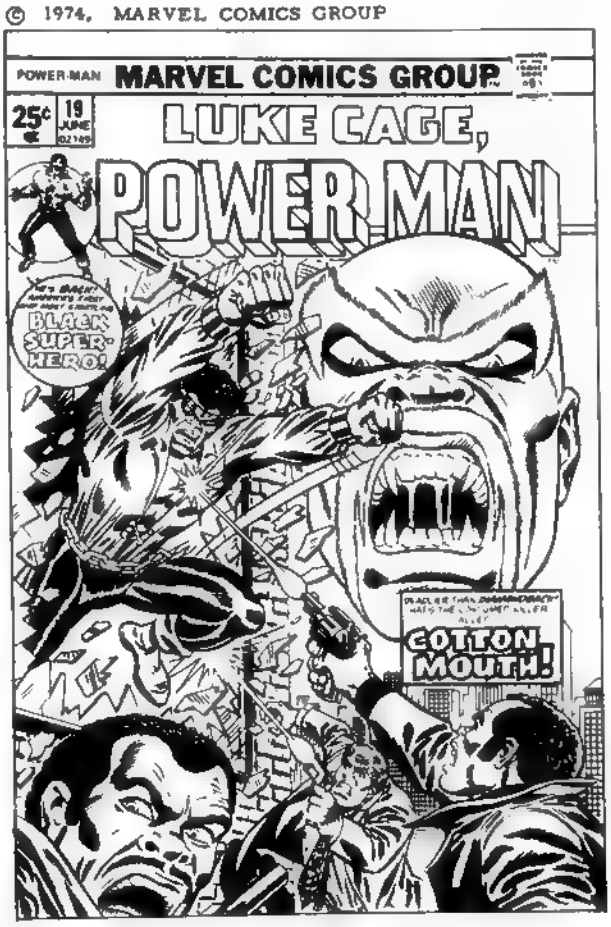

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FANTASTIC FOUR (147, June). Sue Richards issues the divorce papers to Reed Richards, and The Sub-Mariner takes her side against Johnny and the Thing in "The Sub-Mariner Strikes" by Gerry Conway, Rich Buckler and Joe Sinnott. (3/26)

UNCANNY TALES (4, June). (3/26)

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY (11, June). (3/26)

MARVEL TEAM-UP (22, June). Spidey teams up with Hawkeye to battle Ouasimodo in "The Messiah Machine" by Len Wein and Sal Buscema. (3/26)

MASTER OF KUNG FU (18, June). Shang-Chi's raid on one of his father's factories of evil is told in "Attack" by Steve Englehart, Val Mayerik and Al Milgrom. (3/26)

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT (18, June). A battle of werewolves results in "Murder by Moonlight" in a tale by Mike Friedrich, Don Perlin and Mike Royer. (3/26)

STRANGE TALES (174, June). A new series starts off with "There Walks the Golem!" This series is about a creature who has been asleep for hundreds of centuries and awakes to wreak destruction. Opening story is by Len Wein and John Buscema. (3/26)

KULL THE DESTROYER (14, June). The dethroned king and his crew travel to a mountain settlement to recruit men only to face another sorcerer. Story by Steve Englehart, Mike Ploog and Frank Chiarmonte, cover by Jim Starlin. (3/26)

SAVAGE TALES (4, June). Conan stars in "Night of the Dark God" and "Dweller in the Dark;" a two part story by Roy Thomas and Gil Kane. Other features include an article on the "Jason and the Argonauts" movie, a reprint of a Joe Manelly "The Crusader" strip, an article on the Gnome Press Conan books entitled "Hour of the Gnome," a two page pin-up of Conan by Craig Russell and the cover by Neal Adams. (3/26)

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Charlton News

Charlton is well on the road to recovery from the paper shortage and is currently up to half of their full schedule. The editorial department is confident that they will be up to full schedule within a few months. At least two super-hero books are in the planning stages (and no further than that) and we'll report anything new on them as it becomes available.

Special thanks to Nick Cuti, assistant managing editor at Charlton for his help with this section and without whose help we could not bring you this enlarged section on the Charlton Comics Group.

Dissatisfaction with the presentation of the character in the past has resulted in the replacemeht of original material in THE PHANTOM comic with Spanish of Italian original stories which will hopefully resemble the style of the newspaper strip more closely.

A new series entitled "Baron Weirwulf's Library" by Nick Cuti and Don Newton will appear in most of Charlton's mystery books, beginning with MIDNIGHT TALES #8, on sale near the end of April. The character is pictured at left.

Charlton Coming Comics

HAUNTED (16, June). This issue features "Nightmare" by Joe Gill, Bill Molno and Wayne Howard, "Come See Our Ghost" by Tony Tallarico and "Room For One More" by Steve Ditko. (3/5)

MIDNIGHT TALES (7, June). The history of a primeaval creature winds through this issue, starting in the introduction, "Ooze"by Nick Cuti and Wayne Howard. Chronicling the creature's existance is "Goo" by Nick Cuti and Tom Sutton, "Sludge" by Cuti and Joe Staton, and "Muck" by Wayne Howard. (3/5)

PEBBLES AND BAMM-BAMM (20, June). (3/7)

DINO (4, June). (3/7)

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E-MAN (3, June). E-Man gets on the trail of some disappearing people when his girl friend becomes one of the missing. He learns the people are being used as a source of power and to rescue them he must face The Battery. Story by Nick Cuti and Joe Staton. Also in this issue is a tale of a boy who travels through time with his time machine, Anacrom, a conversationalist. "Travis" is written and drawn by Wayne Howard. Cover by Joe Staton. (3/12)

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FIGHTIN' MARINES (117, June). (3/12)

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THE GREAT GAZOO (4, June). (3/19)

LOVE AND ROMANCE (17, June). (3/19)

THE PHANTOM (60, June). New art starting this issue as Charlton starts using foreign versions of the Phantom, translated for use here in the U.S. Cover by Jim Aparo. (3/21)

SARGE SNORKEL (3, June). (3/21)

●

LOVE DIARY (88, June). (3/26)

I LOVE YOU (107, June). (3/26)

Unabashed Family Plug Time: As typical, self-serving American capitalists, we urge youto subscribe to The Menomonee Falls GUARDIAN, a compendium of humor and otherwise featuring Krazy Kat, Pogo, Broom-Hilda, Beetle Bailey, Tumbleweeds, Gordo, B.C., Conchy, Popeye (by Elzie Segar), Gasoline Alley, Mickey Finn, Feiffer, Alley Oop, Captain Easy, Joe Palooka, Boon Dock, The Born Loser, Eek & Meek, Winthrop, and Funny Business. 52 weekly issues for $17, 26 for $9, 12 for $4.50 or a 35¢ sample.

A Letter from the Editors

There is an ugly rumor going around that we like the Postal Service. We vehemently deny it. If we were paranoid, it would be quite easy to construct all the vicious characteristics of an ugly plot to get us. We're not, but we're mad. For instance, last issue's mailing occured January 16 and 17; various indignant subscribers indicated that they had yet to receive #103 as late as February 1. It took more than eleven days for the issue to reach Racine, which is only forty miles from here. Therefore we were caused unneeded and undue hardship that we didn't deserve. Come the revolution, they'll be the first to go! (Only kidding, Mr. Postmaster!) All of this occured because we can't afford to affix postage stamps to a couple of thousand TCR's and chose the more expedient First Class Imprint -- we pay full first class rates and deserve full service... which explains the blurb on the back page of this issue. This issue will be mailed the last week of February -- if you receive it the second or third week in March then we hope that you will drop by your local P.O. and yell -- loudly. Dated news is no news at all.

Mike and Jerry

Warren News

Archie Goodwin is returning to Warren Publishing and will edit CREEPY AND VAMPIRELLA.

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CREEPY #61 features "The Blood Colored Motorbike" by Jose Bea, "Advent of the Scrapheap" by Rich Margopolis and Jose Gaul, "The Ghouls" by Carl Wessler and Martin Salvadore, "Twisted Medicine" by Steve Skeates and Leo Summers, "Stranger in Eternity" by T. Casey Brennan, "Encore Ghastly" by Tom Sutton and Art Estory, and, in color, "Terror Tune" by Bill Dubay and Rich Corben. Cover is by Sanjulian, with a second cover by Bill Dubay. (3/7)

FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND (#107) (3/14)

EERIE #56 has a cover by Ken Kelly and "It Returns" by Romero and Wessler, "Once Upon a Time There Was a Were-Mummy" by Steve Skeates and Martin Salvador, Dr. Archaeus in "Night of the Red Death" by Gerry Boudreau and Isidro Mones, The Hunter in "Blood Princess" by Bill Dubay and Paul Neary, "The Freaks" by Dubay, and, in color, The Wizard in "The Not So Nice Doggy" by Butterworth and Richard Corben. (3/19)

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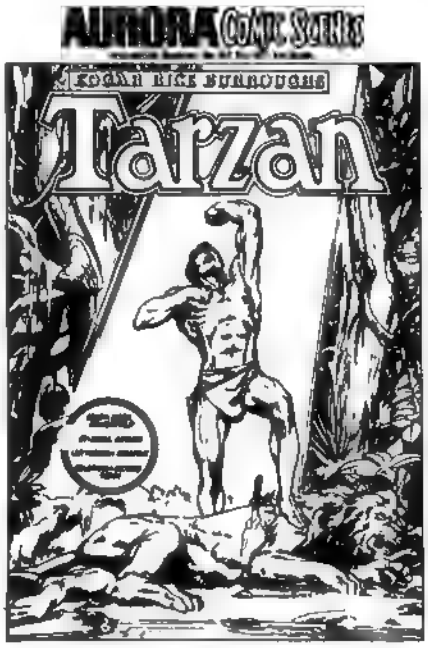
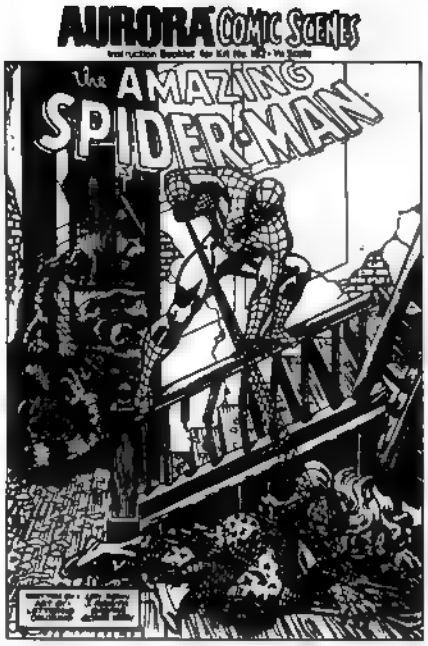
THE SPIRIT #2 features "The Tragedy of Marie Andrew," "History of the Dolan Family," Awesome Bells of Mars," and a double length story, "Bleak, the Hardened Kid-Criminal." All stories by Will Eisner. (4/4)

VAMPIRELLA #33 features a cover by Enrich, inside covers by Jeff Jones and Berni Wrightson, "Top To Bottom" by Butterworth and Richard Corben, Pantha in "Childhood Haunt" by Steve Skeates and Aureleon, "Number 37 Is Missing" by Lewis and Mones, Vampirella in "The Sultan's Revenge" by Flaxman Lowes and Jose Gonzales, and Fleur in "From the Spain Legend" by Jackson and Ramon Torrents.(4/4)

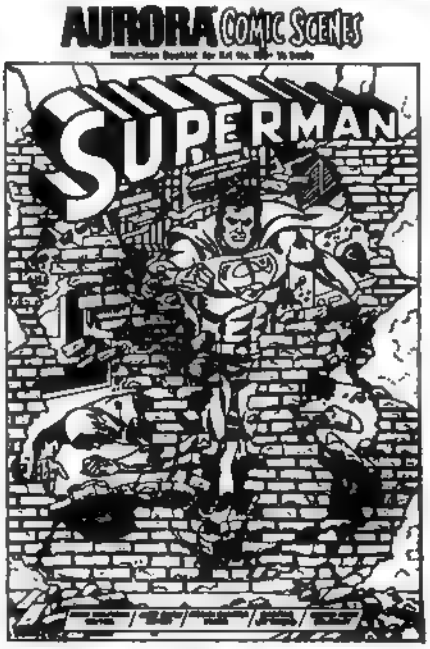


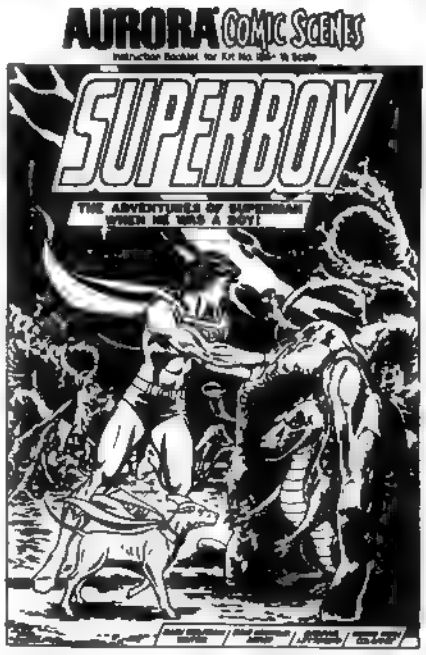


AURORA NEWS:

Aurora Plastics have taken eight of the old, discontinued hero-type model kits and will be re-issuing them in April as "Aurora Comic Scenes." Each kit will include an especially done eight page full color comic book. These books will feature two pages of instructions, and a full page drawing in the story meant for use as a backdrop for the assembled model. Opening pages for the eight books are reproduced here.

Credit for the booklets goes to: Mark Hanerfeld, Len Wein and Marv Wolfman for scripts; Neal Adams, Dave Cockrum, Frank Giacoia, Dick Giordano, Gil Kane, Johnny Romita, Curt Swan and Herb Trimpe for art; Gaspar Saladino for lettering and Glynis Wein for coloring. No fan should miss these because the people who put them together put their hearts into it, and it shows!





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Et Al

THE ELECTRIC COMPANY Magazine, sister publication to SESAME STREET Magazine, contains some features of interest to the comics fan: "Jennifer of the Jungle" by George Evans, a fold-in by Al Jaffee, "Fargo North, Decoder" in the style of a certain detective strip, and work by Rick Meyerowitz, Ralph Reese and Larry Hama. It's published by the Children's Television Workshop and distributed by Dell.

Will Eisner's PoorHouse Press has published four new soft cover books -- "Gleeful Guides" that cunningly combine fact and usefulness with a glob of gentle insanity, to steal from the book promo. Profusely illustrated by Sam Profuse (er...) Will Eisner, they are entitled "Gleeful Guide to Occult Cookery," "Gleeful Guide to How to Teach Your Dog to Sing," "Will Eisner's Incredible Facts, Amazing Statistics and Monumental Trivia," and "Gleeful Guide to Communicating With Plants (to Help Make Them Grow)" all of which were collaborations in some way with someone named Ivan Klapper. They are $1.95 each at bookstores everywhere (or so we are told) and we highly recommend them as highly enjoyable and hilarious mature humor.

Quintessance Publications (PO Box 5246, Spokane, WA 99205) is doing a whole bunch of comic reprint and original material magazines. Among them are a 52 page 8 1/2 x 11 PHANTOM reprint from 1942 for $1.50, a new monthly series featuring ALLEY OOP from 1941 (32 pages) for 75¢ or 3/$2.00, another monthly series featuring Archie Goodwin and Al Williamson's SECRET AGENT CORRIGAN from 1967 starting with their first story (same size and prices as ALLEY OOP) plus a new bi-monthly series entitled THE GODS OF MOUNT OLYMPUS, brand-new tabloid sized artwork and story by E-MAN artist Joe Staton for $1 per copy, 3/$2.75 and 6/$5.00. Busy people out there in Washington.

The MONSTER TIMES has informed us that Joe Brancatelli has resigned his post of managing editor to devote full time to INSIDE COMICS. James Neri is a new assistant art director and Warren Chapmans has been hired as Marketing Director and should be contacted for any queries involving bulk orders, distribution, etc.

The San Diego Comic Art Convention, to be held July 31 - August 5 has announced its guest list which includes Charles Schulz, Jack Kirby, Alex Toth, Russell Myers, Milton Caniff, Roy Thomas, Ray Bradbury, Gene Roddenberry, Bob Clampett, Chuck Jones, Mike Friedrich, Don Glut and others. Membership rates are $5 until March 31, $7.50 from April 1 through July 15, and $10 at the door. For other information write San Diego Comic Convention, P.O. Box 17066, San Diego, CA 92117.

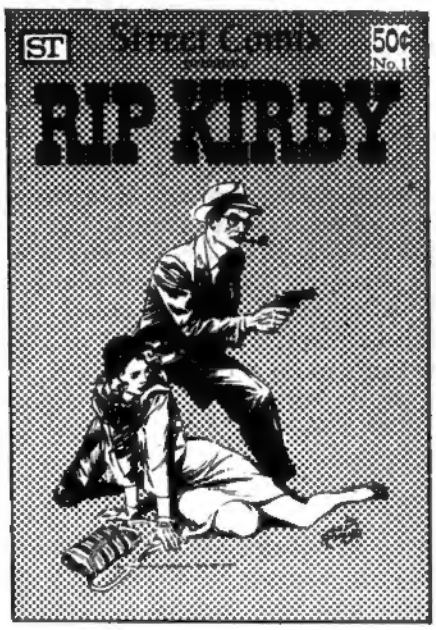
DynaPubs has announced their new SPECIAL EDITION SERIES which will reprint 320 pages of Captain Marvel stories from WHIZ #7-28 (including 22 Captain Marvel stories and 4 Spy Smasher tales). The cost is $9.95 from RR #1, PO Box 297, East Moline, IL, 61244. Further comics in their FLASHBACK series have been announced and are: ALL STAR #2, ALL SELECT #1, JUMBO #1, PEP COMICS #17, CAPTAIN MARVEL JR. #1, MASTER COMICS #21, FOUR FAVORITES #1, and TOUGH KID SQUAD #1.

The Comic Reprints people, who publish NOSTALGIA NEWS and YESTERDAY'S COMICS, as well as their reprints of WHIZ #2, ALL STAR #3 and POLICE COMICS #1, have announced plans for two new volumes of "The Best of Captain Marvel" reprinting eight stories from various issues in two volumes (for $2.00, or $1.25 each), reprints of CRACK COMICS #1, UNCLE SAM #1, BLACKHAWK #9, SMASH COMICS,#1, BUCK ROGERS #1, PLASTIC MAN #2, (each of which can be ordered for $3.00 each from them at PO Box 34305, Dallas Texas 75234) and they plan to reprint BOY COMICS #3, MASTER COMICS #1, NATIONAL COMICS, NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1939 and 1940, NICKEL COMICS #1, PLASTIC MAN #3, SILVER STREAK #1, WHIZ COMICS #25, BULLETMAN #1, SPY SMASHER #1, CAPTAIN MARVEL JR. #1, PLANET COMICS #1 and BLACK TERROR #1 plus the rare CAPTAIN MARVEL THRILL BOOK. Write to the above address for further information.

Our good friend Alan Jim Hanley has published COMIC BOOK #6, another of his one-man shows. It is a pure delight and if you enjoy comics and/or silliness, satire or thrilling action, we implore you to order CB #6 for $1 from A.J. Hanley, 6228 N. Winthrop, Chicago, IL 60660 and tell him Mugsy sent ya. (He'll know what you mean.)

Luna Press, publishers of the reprint of Martin Sheridan's COMICS & THEIR CREATORS, have announced publication of Coulton Waugh's 1948 book THE COMICS, in hardback for $8.00 ($5.60 before May 15) and softcover for $5.00 (or $3.50 before May 15). Also in the works are WASH TUBBS ($9.00 in harcover; $6.30 for members of the COMICS ARCHIVE; $6.00 in softcover; $4.20 for members) plus BUSTER BROWN by Outcault and THE COMIC STRIPS OF LYONEL FEININGER. (You become a member of Comic Archive by ordering THE COMICS at the pre-publication price.) Write: Luna Press, Box 1049, Brooklyn, New York 11202.

COMIC STRIP NEWS: Little in the way of good news can be related this month as FRIDAY FOSTER and SALLY BANANAS were cancelled by their respective syndicates. In addition, ROMEO BROWN has been dropped from The Menomonee Falls GUARDIAN because of inflationary increases, and VINTAGE FUNNIES lost THE PHANTOM, BRICK BRADFORD, MANDRAKE, BRINGING UP FATHER and TIM TYLER'S LUCK because of King Features' prior committments. The GAZETTE is in search of a replacement for FRIDAY FOSTER; The GUARDIAN has GASOLINE ALLEY by Dick Moores and Gus Arriola's GORDO slated for replacements; and VINTAGE FUNNIES has begun to run a strip entitled "HE" by Edgar Rice Burroughs and his pal Hal Foster (a strangely familiar strip) as well as daily MICKEY MOUSE from 1931. CRITTER has announced plans to reprint Foster's MEDIEVAL CASTLE and George Wunder's TERRY & THE PIRATES in the near future. David Lettick has taken over LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE from Mike Fleisher and Vic Martin, ostensibly returning the strip to its "former glory" and presumably its idiotic right wing viewpoint. The Menomonee Falls GUARDIAN Special #2 featuring ALLEY OOP will be published by the time you read this; it's 35¢ from us at our normal address.



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Fanzine Reviews

Heritage presents... AMORA... by Gray Morrow. The guys at Heritage are giving the artist free reign to see what they come up with in this new publication. I would say that Heritage and Morrow have come up with a winner.

Amora is a strip about a beautiful girl of the future on a dangerous mission in deep space. Does it sound familiar? Yes, but it does have a big difference in Gray Morrow. The story has a lot of elements that Gray loves to work with: a girl, space cruisers, and the storyline of the space patrol versus the pirates. Gray manages to fit all this into six pages -- Oboy!

Hi-Jinx is a witch and the star of the second strip of the zine. As she comes across the usual frog, Hi-Jinx changes him into a man. Unfortunatly for her, things do not work out as she planned. The strip is done in a simpler style than Amora, but it is pleasent and fits this type of story better.

The front cover is a montage of Amora's adventures that do not appear in this volume and the back cover is Gray's rendering of Sheena, Queen of the Jungle.

I am impressed with the beauty of the art, and the amount of work that went into this book. On the other hand, I believe the large size (8"x15"), the meager number of pages (sixteen), and the price ($1.50) will go against the zine. The size is very impressive but on Hi-Jinx it is not used to the best effect, and you might have a slight problem in storing the zine. For twelve pages of strips and two black and white covers, a buck and a half seems a bit steep.

On the other side of the coin, the paper is expensive and of excellent quality, and the reproduction is flawless. I will give it a high recommendation to those who enjoy Gray's work. I can not recommend this zine to those whose interests lie in other areas of comic fandom.

HERITAGE PRESENTS

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REALM - I don't really know where to begin in reviewing this zine. It contains the whole gambit of fan publishing: articles, strips, fan fiction and art are included in this issue. All the work in this zine is of a very high quality.

The first piece in the zine is a strip entitled "The Rainmaker" (based on the song by Harry Nilsson and Bill Martin) as presented by Gary Brown and Doug Potter. The characters in the strip are the so-called "funny animals." The story itself, a variation of the Pied Piper saga, is excelent and very well done.

The editor reprints an interview with Ray Bradbury from The L. A. Free Press which features interesting remarks on both sides. This is followed by the first of two pieces of fan fiction. This story is a sword and sorcery tale by Jeffrey May that features an interesting plot. A thief on the run stumbles into a house of a female fugitive, where she is protected by the guardian of her family, a giant stone statue. The statue's overzealous protection of the family puts the thief in fear of his life. Barry Smith illos accompany the story.

A two page strip by Ed Romero follows. It is done in three long panels per page, similar to the manner of layouts Jeff Jones was using some time ago. The story is cute; it is about insect-sized extraterrestrials that land in a garden -- never to leave again. Ed does a great job on the art.

A Berni Wrightson checklist is presented next. As far as I can tell, it is complete up to SWAMP THING #1. The list includes Berni's fanzine work.

A portfolio by Darrell Anderson is next in the line-up. Anderson has a really weird style and his subjects are even weirder as they range from spacemen to witches.

Ed Romero does some reviews of movies, undergrounds, records and zines next, followed by a one page rememberance, more than a report, on the Oklahoma City Con with a page of pictures. Dave Taylor pops up again with another strip. Written by Dick Addison, it is about a retarded alien child sent to exile on Earth. The story is a sad one and it is quite well done in script and art. Very much worth reading.

Jeffery May offers an opinion on fan fiction. It is noteworthy because it asks that fan fiction be judged as just that. Two sketches by Frank Frazetta appear, and they are Frank's usual fare for zines. The second piece of fan fiction, a science-fiction story by Jan Strnad, is next. It is about a multi-generation space ship and crew that removes something precious from an old man. The story is very enjoyable although it does have a tragic ending.

A portfolio of things made out of metal by Romero, a visit to Richard Corben's home, and one pagers of art by Kane, Weiss, Black and others round out the issue. The covers are in color by Anderson and Romero.

60 pages of fun, fantasy and magic for only 75¢. Yes, you cannot afford to pass up this buy. You will enjoy this fanzine immensely -- so buy it.

REALM

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